

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) An object holding device, comprising:  
an object mounting assembly having a base subassembly and a mounting post;  
a support assembly constructed and arranged to support said base subassembly;  
a cover portion cooperatively arranged with said support assembly to capture said  
base subassembly;

said support assembly including a piston member that is moveable in response to  
fluid pressure to apply a clamping force on said base subassembly to clamp said base  
subassembly in a selected position;

a biasing spring positioned within said base subassembly; and

a spring-biased plunger positioned within said base subassembly and located  
between said biasing spring and said piston member for maintaining a frictional force on  
said object mounting assembly sufficient to maintain said object mounting assembly in a  
selected orientation when said object mounting assembly is not otherwise clamped in  
position by the use of fluid pressure, wherein said piston member includes a concave  
cavity and said spring-biased plunger includes a convex surface that remains in contact  
with said concave cavity.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein:

said cover portion includes an upper body member and a lower supporting base  
member.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein:

said support assembly cooperates with said cover portion defining a separation volume  
for receipt of fluid pressure.

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4. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein:  
said cover portion defines a fluid inlet which introduces fluid pressure into the  
separation volume to exert a force on said support assembly.

5-8 (canceled)

9. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein:  
said support assembly cooperates with said cover portion defining a separation volume  
for receipt of fluid pressure.

10. (Original) The device of claim 9, wherein:  
said cover portion defines a fluid inlet which introduces fluid pressure into said  
separation volume to exert a force on said support assembly.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein:  
said base subassembly contacts said cover portion at a location above the midpoint of  
said base subassembly.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The device of claim [[13]] 1 wherein said mounting  
post is constructed and arranged to receive a set screw that is constructed and arranged to  
adjust the spring-biased force on said plunger by adjusting the compressed length of said  
biasing spring.

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15. (New) An object holding device, comprising:  
an object mounting assembly having a base subassembly and a mounting post;  
a support assembly constructed and arranged to support said base subassembly;  
a cover portion cooperatively arranged with said support assembly to capture said base subassembly;  
said support assembly including a piston member that cooperates with said cover portion to clamp said base subassembly in a selected position;  
a biasing spring positioned within said base subassembly; and  
a spring-biased plunger positioned within said base subassembly and located between said biasing spring and said piston member for maintaining a frictional force on said object mounting assembly sufficient to maintain said object mounting assembly in a selected orientation when said object mounting assembly is not otherwise clamped in position by the use of fluid pressure, wherein said piston member includes a concave cavity and said spring-biased plunger includes a convex surface that remains in contact with said concave cavity .

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